

American Fencing

1953 - 1954 FENCING SEASON



VOLUME 5

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Vol.

American Fencing

President's Annual Message

One of the pleasant duties of the President is to extend an annual greeting to the membership. This is my first opportunity to thank you for the many expressions of confidence and to discuss with you what I consider to be our present situation and the program we should follow.

We have just had considerable discussion about a constitutional amendment—perhaps more than was necessary. Both sides were sincere and now that the question has been resolved I am certain that the decision will be accepted in good grace. We must always encourage free and full discussion of important local or national issues before any action is taken; as sportsmen we should be able to do so without rancor. My predecessor, whom I have known intimately for quite some time, has succeeded in creating a closer fellowship between our widely scattered groups; this understanding and goodwill must be preserved and developed. The establishment of **American Fencing** four years ago has helped a great deal in this respect and we must insure its continued publication.

Although the membership of the League has remained static, reports indicate a slight increase in the number of competitions and competitors in the Division and Sectional level; representation at the National Championships these last two years has been especially good. In this, one of our primary functions, we might be tempted to say we had succeeded admirably were it not for the knowledge that the general increase in fencing activity outside the framework of the A.F.L.A. has been tremendous. One of our main objectives at this time must be to bring into the League a much greater portion of the active fencers in the country and for this task the continued cooperation of our amateur and professional teachers is essential. A comprehensive program has been proposed to the Air

Force and, if approved, we will ask local groups to render assistance at nearby bases; the fencers organized at these bases will establish now Divisions or will become part of existing Divisions depending upon their location. A concerted effort must be made to bring the high school fencer into the A.F.L.A.; the time spent teaching these youngsters will not reap a full harvest unless we bring them into the League and cement their interest for the future. The magazine and special competitions should help to accomplish this. A similar effort must be directed at the colleges, Y.M.C.A.'s, and other clubs.

Internationally we have earned considerable prestige through our competitors and officials. The Pan American Games of 1955 and the Olympic Games in 1956 present the opportunity to enhance our prestige; we must start immediately to train the candidates for these Games. Squads in each weapon will be given a long-range training program so that the rigorous training of the teams during the 1955-56 seasons will not be a sudden, hysterical and unnatural process.

These are our most urgent tasks as I see them. In both local and national affairs we must be more sensitive to new ideas. We must encourage younger fencers to take an active part in administrative matters and we must not hesitate to experiment. The experience of our older members will guide and temper the impatience of the young ones, but we must recognize that a proposal is not dangerous or impractical merely because it has not been tried before.

Your National Officers, Division Chairmen and other elected representatives will do everything in their power to improve the A.F.L.A. and I know you will give them your support. On their behalf I extend to you our sincerest wishes for a pleasant fencing season.

—Jose de Capriles



How About It???

The season is about to start and again I would like to remind you to look over your equipment. Are you still fencing with a beat-up mask? Is your uniform well blessed with holes? Then why not renew them NOW? Don't forget the newspapers love to give us publicity . . . when a fencer is sent to the hospital. And hundreds of timid souls drop the sport without knowing how it happened.

Please play safe!! You are doing yourself a favor as well as giving your opponent peace of mind. You will fence better and have more confidence.

How about it?

—W. L. Osborn

FOR THE RECORD

Women's Metropolitan Individual

The results of the women's 1953 metropolitan individual foil championship have now been received. Final standings: (1) Diane Millstein, FC 4/1; (2) Grace Acel, SS, 3/2, 16/17 (defeated Dalton 4-3 on fence-off); (3) Madeleine Dalton, FC, 3/2, 16/17; (4) Ida Balint, Saltus, 2/3, 17 t.r.; (5) Eve Cohen, SS, 2/3, 18 t.r.; (6) Dolly Funke, FC, 1/4.

Roger F. Jones, chairman of the Western New York Division, was married on September 19 to Miss Caryl Reisgen of Yeadon, Pennsylvania. Heartiest congratulations!

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* * * * *

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Application for entry as second class matter is pending.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 15, 1953

Mastropaolo Returns

Joe Mastropaolo, the first American ever to study at the Civilian Fencing Teachers' School of France's renowned National Institute of Sports, has returned to his home in Brooklyn as an honor graduate of the School and expects to start his professional career in the near future. Mr. Mastropaolo has pointed for the fencing teacher's profession since he was discharged from the Army in 1946. He majored in physical education at Brooklyn College, graduating in 1950. He taught 6th grade for a year to supplement his G.I. benefits, and then took the stiff two-year course for fencing teachers at the French Institute, the successor of the world famous Joinville School of Gymnastics and Fencing. The school program calls for training 14 or 15 hours daily except Sunday, when competitions are held beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 8 or 9 p.m. Mr. Mastropaolo also competed in the World Championships at Brussels this past summer, in order to observe at first hand the technique and tactics of the top-flight amateurs in all weapons.

American Fencing is proud to congratulate Mr. Mastropaolo for his intelligent preparation for his chosen profession, and wishes him the best of success. In our opinion, he can't miss.

—M. A. de C.



NOTICE

Under the basic agreement governing the management of **American Fencing**, policy decisions are made by a board consisting of the elected national officers of the A.F.L.A. and the Editor and Publisher. The policy board has decided to grant Jose de Capriles a leave of absence from his position as Editor during his term of office as President of the League, and to assign his editorial duties to a Board of Editors. The composition of the Board of Editors will be announced in the masthead and will be re-examined from time to time in order to insure efficient operation in keeping with established policy.

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Jose de Capriles, Fencer, Dead; Olympics Official and a Lawyer

**Executive of Lehigh Valley
Railroad Was Expert in
Foil, Epee and Saber**

José R. de Capriles, a world figure in fencing as a participant and as an official, who was also vice president for law and administration for the Lehigh Valley Railroad, died of cancer yesterday at Memorial Hospital. He was 57 years old.

Mr. de Capriles was a dark, slender, vigorous man 6 feet 3 inches tall. He became ill in October during the Olympic Games in Mexico City, where he had been born Feb. 13, 1912. He was at the games as a director of the United States Olympic Committee and a member of the technical committee for fencing. He had competed in three Olympics — 1936, 1948 and 1952 — on the American team.

Joe de Capriles, as he was widely known, and his equally famous older brother, Miguel, or Mike, followed parallel courses. Both were graduated in law from New York University. Both won many national and international honors in fencing. Through the years they were opponents—and also teammates. Between 1961 and 1965 they served as the first American officers of the International Federation of Fencing, Miguel as president and José as vice president.

"He was one of the greatest all-round fencers in the United States," the surviving brother said. "He remained a strong fencer until he was about 50 years old. He had a great capacity for friendship and drew a warm reaction from everybody he met."

Began the Sport in College

Mr. de Capriles was one of the rarities of fencing, a star with all three weapons—épée, foil and saber — each of which requires a different technique.

He was captain of the New York University team from 1931 to 1933, the year he graduated, and was the university's first Intercollegiate Fencing Association champion in his senior year. He had known nothing of the sport when he entered college.

José de Capriles had played baseball in high school, but never fenced. His brother introduced him to the coach.

"If he is a good ball player, we'll make a good fencer of him," said the coach, Julio Castello, whose son Hugo is the only other fencing coach the university has had.

Mr. de Capriles became not only good, but exceptional. Since his day, N.Y.U. has won more intercollegiate championships than any other college: 17 team titles and 40 individ-



José R. de Capriles

College with an A.B. degree. Mr. de Capriles gained postgraduate degrees from N.Y.U.'s Law School in 1942 and in 1954.

He was in the Army Air Corps during World War II, rising from private to major. He served in the African and European theaters, participating in the Normandy landings and in the Battle of the Bulge. After his discharge in 1945, he joined the law department of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

His parents were Abraham and Cristina de Capriles. His father was the auditor for the Mexican Eagle Company, an oil concern in Mexico City.

Edited Publications on Sport

Although he won no medals in Olympic competition, Mr. de Capriles received many other honors. As captain of the 1955 Pan-American Games team, he won a gold medal as a member of the winning team and two silver medals as a member of the runner-up foil and épée teams.

His finest year in national championship competition was 1946, when he became the foil champion, runner-up with the épée and third in saber. No one else ever has placed with all three weapons in events conducted by the Amateur Fencers League of America.

He fenced for the Salle Santelli, whose owner still operates a fencing school in New York, and for the Fencers Club of New York.

He was a past president of the Amateur Fencers League of America and was editor of "Fencing Rules and Manual," a 300-page book that is considered the bible of the sport. He also edited American Fencing, which appears six times a year.

Surviving, besides his brother, are his widow, the former Adela Casanova, and two sons,

Official A.F.L.A. Notes

By RALPH GOLDSTEIN, Secretary

... Rule Changes ...

The Board of Governors has adopted the following changes in the Rules. It is suggested that each member note the specific changes in his Rules Book.

Rule 14 (b) Sectional Championships include the AllEastern, Midwest, Pacific Coast and Southwest inter-divisional championships. These championships shall be limited to Open, Senior and Intermediate team and individual events. Other inter-divisional championships shall have the same classification as a Divisional Championship (See Rule 9,d).

Rule 82 (a) In all qualifying competitions for the national individual championships the **number of qualifiers** who will be eligible to compete in the championship tournament shall be determined (1) by the competitive membership (Life, Active, Collegiate and Student) in good standing in the division or non-divisional group at the time of the competition, and (2) by the number of fencers actually competing for qualification. The minimum number of qualifiers shall be 3 if there are 25 or less competitive members in good standing; 4 if there are 26 to 50 inclusive; 5 if there are 51 to 100 inclusive; 6 if there are 101 or more. Additional qualifiers shall be permitted if there are 10 or more actual competitors in the qualifying competition, as follows: 10 to 19 competitors (inclusive), 2 additional qualifiers; 20 to 29 competitors, 3 additional qualifiers; 30 to 39 competitors, 4 additional qualifiers; 40 or more competitors, 5 additional qualifiers. In other words, 3 shall be the minimum and 11 the maximum that shall be allowed to qualify from any divisional or non-divisional qualifying competition.

(b) In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition is equal to or less than the minimum established by membership, the qualifying competition need not be held and all entries shall automatically be qualified for the championship tournament.

(d) Additional representation shall be afforded on the basis of proven strength by permitting the following to **qualify automatically** for the championship tournament in each weapon, without taking part in the qualifying competitions and without reducing the number of other qualifiers from the division or non-divisional group to which they belong: the finalists of the previous national championships in each weapon; all former National Champions in each weapon; members of the U. S. Olympic Team selected not more than four years prior to the championship tournament, in the weapon fenced; the current Sectional Champions in each weapon; fencers of Veteran classification (aged 50 or over) who have been National Championship medalists or members of a U. S. Olympic Fencing Team. The same privilege may be extended, at the discretion of the Board of

Governors, to visiting members of the F.I.E.

Rule 87 Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule the first round of the **championship competitions**, team and individual, shall be held by the round-robin or pool method, but byes may be granted at the discretion of the Bout Committee.

(d) In all rounds of the national individual championships qualification shall be determined on the basis of bout victories. If two or more fencers are tied for the last qualifying place on the basis of bout victories, there shall be a fence-off. If after a fence-off there is still a tie in bout victories, the tie shall be resolved by counting touches and the touch score in the original pool shall be added to the touch score of the fence-off to determine the relative standing of the fencers involved. The bout and touch scores among all qualifiers from the same pool may be used to determine their comparative standing for the purpose of seeding the following round.

Rule 220 The mesh and bib of the mask, and for sabre all parts of the mask liable to come in contact with the opponent's blade (mesh, bib, reinforcements, straps and sides), and the front surface of the visor (which, if used, must always be placed within the mask) must be white or very light **ecru** in color. On the other hand, the inside surfaces of the mask and bib, the back spring and, in foil and epee, the outside trimming may be of any color whatsoever.

Rule 523 (Unfinished Bouts). If, at the end of the time allotted for a five-touch bout in foil and sabre, neither of the contestants has scored the number of touches required for victory and **they are tied**, the score shall be brought to four-all and the contestants shall compete for a single decisive touch without limit of time. In such cases the final score of the bout shall always be 5-4. When the bout is prolonged in this manner the contestants shall go on guard at the places they occupied on the strip when the time fixed for the bout expired. The same basic principle is applied when the number of touches in foil and sabre is more or less than five.

Rule 525 (Epee) (Add before the last sentence). When the bout is prolonged in this manner the contestants shall go on guard at the places they occupied on the strip when the time fixed for the bout expired.

Rule 601 The Bout Committee for all AFLA events shall consist of members of the League in good standing. If professional Associate members serve on the committee they may not participate in the seeding of pools.

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National Rankings

The Board of Governors has fixed the following National Rankings for the 1953-54 season:

Women

1. Paul Sweeney, Michigan
2. Mrs. Maxine Mitchell, S. Cal.
3. Mrs. Diane Millstein, N.Y.
4. Miss Madeline Dalton, N.Y.
5. Mrs. Sallye Chambers, Michigan
6. Mrs. Eve Cohen Siegel, N.Y.
7. Vivienne Sokol, N.Y.
8. Betty Dedousis, N.J.

Foil

1. Dr. Daniel Bukantz, N.Y.
2. Ralph Goldstein, Westchester
3. Allan Kwartler, N.Y.
4. Albert Axelrod, N.Y.
5. Leonard Turk, N.Y.
6. Neil Lazar, N.Y.
7. Nathaniel Lubell, N.Y.
8. Lt. Robert Nielsen, USAF
9. Dr. Paul T. Makler, Philadelphia
10. Evan Quinn, Westchester

Epee

1. Donald G. Thompson, Illinois
2. Richard Berry, Michigan
3. Ralph Goldstein, Westchester
4. A/2C Robert Derderian, USAF
5. Alan M. Ruben, Philadelphia
6. Thomas Bickley, No. Texas
7. Edward Vebell, N.Y.
8. Roger F. Jones, Western N.Y.
9. Peter Conomikes, Philadelphia
10. Albert Wolff, Kentucky

Sabre

1. Dr. Tibor Nyilas, N.Y.
2. George Worth, N.Y.
3. Dr. Norman C. Armitage, So. Car.
4. Abram Cohen, N.Y.
5. Jose R. de Capriles, Westchester
6. Sol Gorlin, N.Y.
7. Dr. James H. Flynn, N.J.
8. Hamilton Millard, N.Y.
9. Dr. Paul T. Makler, Philadelphia
10. Nickolas Muray, N.Y.

**Masters Competitions
Open to Professionals**

The Board of Governors has approved a proposal to open the annual Masters' Epee event, scheduled for May 16, 1954, to professionals who are Associate Members of the A.F.L.A. The Board has also accepted a new trophy for a Masters' Foil Competition, to be held either during the Christmas vacation or at a later date if more convenient to interested professionals. Suggestions for dates and for the scheme of competition should be forwarded immediately to Miguel de Capriles at New York University, New York 3.



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We regret that due to a ruling by the AFLA—the publishers of this magazine—we cannot include a list of our items and their prices. However, we take this opportunity to keep you informed of the fact that our catalog and price list are available to you. Drop us a post card for a complete list of our equipment and our prices.



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1953 World's Championships

by C.-L. de Beaumont, Great Britain

The 1953 World Fencing Championships, held in Brussels, July 15-23, were an example of perfect organization. The refreshing atmosphere of good temper and good fencing was largely due to the high standard of judging and presiding. Some 300 fencers represented 21 nations. The following is a brief commentary on the highlights of each event:

Men's Foil Team (12 teams): The deciding match was again between France and Italy; this was one of the best I have ever seen. The first bout provided a sensational victory for Di Rosa over d'Oriola; but steady fencing by Latoste (who was undefeated) and Rommel, and three victories by d'Oriola, gave France a well-earned title when Claude Netter beat Renzo Nostini, 5-3. Di Rosa supplied three victories for Italy, but France led all the way after the first round and won, 9-6. Hungary took third place by defeating Belgium, 9-6.

Men's Foil Individual (56 entries): Christian d'Oriola, the Olympic Champion, won his third world title in his own distinctive style, although his sureness of touch and marked superiority was not so evident this year. He is at present doing his military service and lacks facilities for training. He lost to Edoardo Mangiarotti, 5-4, in a magnificent bout featured by phrases which went to the fourth or fifth counter-riposte, but ran out a clear winner with a 5-3 victory over Di Rosa in the last bout. Final order: (1) D'Oriola, France, 6 v.; (2) E. Mangiarotti, Italy, 5 v. 20 t.; (3) Di Rosa, Italy, 5 v. 24 t.; (4) Tilly, Hungary, 3 v. 29 t.; (5) Rommel, France, 3 v. 31 t.; (6) Spallino, Italy, 2 v. 30 t.; (7) Latoste, France, 2 v. 30 t.; (8) R. Nostini, Italy, 2 v. 31 t.

Ladies' Foil Team (6 teams): In the round-robin event, Hungary was held to a draw by Germany in its first match 8-8, 46-46; but thereafter won its remaining matches handily, beating France 9-2 in the decisive encounter. France was second with 4 match victories, Italy was third with 3, and Germany, Holland and Belgium followed in that order.

Ladies' Foil Individual (54 entries): Irene Camber of Italy fenced with cool confidence; she has made a great advance in technique since she won the Olympic title last year. She was undefeated throughout the event and in the final had only 11 hits registered against her. Renee Garilhe of France also fenced very well, losing only to Camber in a delightful bout. Keydl of Germany, who was undefeated in the early rounds and took third place, provided the surprise of the tournament. Tall, strong, and with a nice hand, she should have a great future in international fencing. The other finalists were Ilona Elek of Hungary, Hartl of Austria (another newcomer), Zsabka of Hungary, Bernheim of France and Margit Elek of Hungary, who finished in that order.

Epee Team (12 teams): The experiment of fencing epee for five touches

caused fatigue to play a considerable part in the finals of both team and individual; in fact, one team semi-final ended at 1:30 a.m. The team final was very evenly contested by France, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland. As Sweden beat France 8-8, 62-64 touches, Italy beat Switzerland 10-6, France beat Italy 9-7 and Switzerland beat Sweden 10-6, all four teams were level when the last round started. Italy then annihilated Sweden 12-4, while France only just beat Switzerland 8-8, 61-62 hits. Thus the final order was (1) Italy, (2) France, (3) Switzerland, (4) Sweden. The performance of the Swiss, who fenced without their stars (Zappelli, Rufenacht and Meister), was the sensation of the tournament.

Epee Individual (93 entries): Fear of the time factor resulting from the 5-touch bout induced the organizer to qualify only three fencers from pools of 6 or 7, so that a number of well-known fencers were eliminated. The men who had fenced in the team final were noticeably worn out. This, however, does not detract from the remarkable performance of the two Hungarians who topped the field. Josef Sacovics was a clear winner by a margin of two victories. His only defeat was from a team-mate in his first bout of the final. Berczenyi of Hungary, Marini of Italy, Mouyal of France and Edoardo Mangiarotti of Italy, tied for second with four victories and placed in that order on touches. Rehinder of Sweden, Dagallier of France, and Dario Mangiarotti of Italy, completed the final.

Sabre Team (12 teams): Hungary's superiority has never been more marked as it won over France 12-4, Poland 12-4 and Italy 9-3. The Italian team, except for Ferrari, was not impressive; they require rejuvenation or at any rate slimming. They beat Poland 9-7 and drew with France 8-8, 63-63 touches. The young Polish team which made such an impression at Helsinki, again fenced very well and by a two-touch victory over France, 8-8, 60-62, they gained third place.

Sabre Individual (71 entries): The semi-finals at this weapon were particularly keenly contested and only three Hungarians and one Italian reached the final. Kovacs maintained the brilliant form he has shown in the past three years, going through undefeated, with 5-4 bouts only with Pinton and Lefevre. A. Gerevich of Hungary, the 1948 Olympic Champion, was second with five victories. Karpati of Hungary won third place by one touch over Mikla (ex-Hungarian fencer now competing as stateless). Then followed Lefevre of France, Pinton of Italy, Pawlowski of Poland, and Lechner of Austria.



First North American Championships

by Tracy Jaeckel, Captain, U. S. Team

The Ontario Fencing Association and the Canadian National Exhibition are to be congratulated for initiating the first North American Fencing Championship. Some years ago the Wilkinson Tournament in New York brought together teams from Cuba, Mexico and the United States, but they were three-weapon teams with only one man in each weapon; while the Toronto event encompassed the full program of team and individual competitions in all weapons and included women's foil. This program was run on August 27, 28 and 29 in truly devilizing heat. Accommodations in Victoria College were excellent, as were the locker facilities at the Coliseum. The technical arrangements will be improved in the future, as the experience obtained this year pointed up the importance of careful planning and the immense paper work involved in seeding, maintaining schedules, arranging juries, and other details of an international tournament. The success of the event was almost entirely due to a charming and very personable young lady, Miss Marjorie Patterson, Secretary of the Ontario Fencing Association, who earned our warm thanks and affection.

The U. S. team, which I had the honor to Captain, covered itself with glory and returned laden with handsome trophies presented by the Canadian National Exhibition. The team was selected at the last possible moment by the A.F.L.A. Executive Committee, and there was no time for formal training or preparation; but the morale and team spirit were terrific, and combined to overwhelm our less experienced but dead game and tenacious cousins from the land of the Maple Leaf.

The United States defeated Canada in all three team events for men; no women's team competition was held. In foil, our team of Paul Makler, Edward Vebell, Abram Cohen and Nickolas Muray won by 9-5, with Makler and Vebell undefeated. In epee, Paul Makler, Edward Vebell, Paul Moss and I scored an impressive 9-1 victory. The veteran British internationalist, Dennis Pearce (who is warmly remembered as a gallant competitor in the Thompson Trophy British-American match of 1934), defeated me 3-2 for our only loss. Unfortunately, Ed Brooke, the Dominion titleholder who tied for first in our Nationals, could not compete due to illness at home. Our sabre team of Paul Makler, Abram Cohen, Nickolas Muray and Dick Dyer triumphed 9-3 after a slow start. Nick took all three of his bouts, while Dyer showed definite improvement and great promise. Despite the score, Canada made its strongest bid in sabre, and will prove dangerous in the future.

We also dominated the men's events, but in the women's foil it was a different story: Eva Kun of Canada scored an impressive victory, with our own Carol Christensen a good second, and Edith Younger of Canada third. In men's foil,

MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY WEEKEND TOURNAMENT

by Dave Silverstone

The annual international Labour-Day Week-end Tournament at Montreal was held in the Mont St. Louis Gymnasium, September 5-7, 1953. Allan Kwartler was a double winner, sweeping through the finals in foil and sabre without a defeat. Paul Moss, also undefeated in the final, won the epee by a wide margin. The women's foil final resulted in a triple tie for first, and on the fence-off, Mme. Jarmila Vokral emerged the winner, with Judy Goodrich second and Mrs. Dolly Funke third.

Results of Finals

Men's Foil: (1) A. Kwartler, 8 v.; (2) P. Makler, 7 v.; (3) G. Krupski, 5 v., 22 t.r.; (4) R. Asselin, 5 v., 27 t.r.; (5) A. Howard, 3 v., 29 t.r.; (6) E. Brooke, 3 v., 33 t.r.; (7) P. Moss, 2 v., 36 t.r.; (8) R. Dyer, 2 v., 37 t.r.; (9) D. Robins, 1 v. **Referee:** G. A. Pouliot.

Women's Foil (Photo-Journal Trophy): (1) J. Vokral, 5 v., 13 t.r. (defeated Goodrich 4-2 and Funke 4-3 on fence-off); (2) J. Goodrich, 5 v., 17 t.r. (defeated Funke 4-3 on fence-off); (3) D. Funke, 5 v., 21 t.r.; (4) A. Drungis, 4 v., 19 t.r.; (5) G. Marchant, 4 v., 20 t.r.; (6) H. Brewster, 3 v., 22 t.r.; (7) E. Whitehouse, 2 v.; (8) E. Laws, 0 v. **Referee:** Carl Schwende.

Epee (McConnell Trophy): (1) P. Moss, 11 v.; (2) P. Makler, 7 v., 19 t.r.; (3) R. Dyer, 7 v., 21 t.r.; (4) D. Silverstone, 7 v., 25 t.r.; (5) Tie Between E. Brooke and E. Dollinger, each with 6 v., 22 t.r.; (7) F. Bavuso, 6 v., 24 t.r.; (8) T. M. Carhart, 5 v.; (9) R. Asselin, 4 v., 24 t.r.; (10) D. Boyle, 4 v., 26 t.r.; (11) R. Stark, 2 v.; (12) R. Desjarlais, 1 v.

Sabre (Joey Richmond Trophy): (1) A. Kwartler, 9 v.; (2) L. Krasa, 8 v.; (3) P. Makler, 7 v.; (4) R. Dyer, 6 v.; (5) S. Sabel, 3 v., 39 t.r.; (6) R. Cardozo, 3 v., 39 t.r.; (7) J. Flynn, 3 v., 40 t.r.; (8) G. Krupski, 2 v., 39 t.r.; (9) R. Asselin, 2 v., 42 t.r.; (10) D. Rubinstein, 2 v., 43 t.r. **Referees:** C. Schwende, G. A. Pouliot, R. Desjarlais.

An ad in American Fencing reaches fencers throughout the country. Write us for rates.

Vebell and Makler tied for first; then Eddie won the Championship 5-4 in an exciting fence-off. Frank Bavuso took a surprisingly but well-earned third place to give us a sweep of the prizes. In epee, we captured the first seven places in a nine-man final. This time Makler won the title, and Vebell was second on touches over Dick Dyer. [Mr. Jaeckel was fourth. Ed note.] Our iron-man trophy collector, Paul Makler, took another when he defeated Vida of Canada in a fence-off for the sabre championship after Abe Cohen made the tie possible by beating Vida in the final bout. Abe, fencing below his potential in the broiling heat, took the third medal.

A gala dinner attended by members of Parliament and the Toronto City Council, and presided over by the genial Jack Dalton, proved a fitting climax to a thoroughly successful tournament. Our Canadian cousins plan to continue the North American Championships next year on an even better scale. They also promise us some surprises. Until then they deserve our warm thanks for a good job well done.

1953 World's Professional Epee Championships

Michel Pecheux of France, former world amateur epee champion, won the first professional epee tournament held in 25 years when he swept undefeated through a distinguished field of 44 fencing masters from 8 countries. Pecheux two years ago also won the professional foil championship. The French masters dominated the epee field, qualifying for 11 of the 16 places in the first direct-elimination round, for 6 of the 8 quarter-final positions and for all of the 4 semi-final posts.

In a recent issue of L'Esclime Francaise, the president of the Royal Belgian Academy of Arms attributes the success of the French masters to the fact that in France all competitions—except the national championships—are open without distinction to amateurs and professionals, and also to the maintenance of the magisterial school with government help. By contrast, the Italian magisterial school at Rome has been closed, and Italian professionals—although also members of the Italian Fencing Federation—are limited to one closed competition per year.

—M. A. de C.

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A.F.L.A Metropolitan and All Eastern Schedule

1953

Saturday, Oct. 31, Noon
FOIL Novice Team. Dernel Every Trophy (now held by Mercado F.C.) and A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$2.55. Saltus-McBurney. Olvin in charge; Bavuso, Hochberg, Ritayik officiating.

Friday, Nov. 6, 7 P.M.
WOMEN'S Novice Team. George Santelli Trophy (now held by Hunter College) and A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$2.55. Salle Santelli. Accl in charge; E. Cohen, Goldstein, Pongo officiating.

Saturday, Nov. 7, Noon
EPEE Novice Team. Jose de Capriles Trophy (now held by Columbia) and medals. Entry fee \$2.55. Fencers Club. Mijer in charge; Moss, Sonnenreich, Spingarn officiating.

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 P.M.
WOMEN'S Novice Individual. Manrique Medals. Entry fee 85¢. Fencers Club. Rothman in charge; Dalton, Funke, Strauch officiating.

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:30 A.M.
FOIL Novice Individual. John R. Huffman medals. Entry fee 85¢. Saltus-McBurney. Kwartler in charge; A. Cohen, Gorlin, Lazar officiating.

Sunday, Nov. 15, Noon
SABRE Novice Team. J. M. Castello Trophy (now held by Salle Santelli) and A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$2.55. Fencers Club. Sobel in charge; Bavuso, Hess, Marmer officiating.

Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 P.M.
FOIL Prep Individual. Leo G. Nunes medals. Entry fee 85¢. Rohdes Academy. Lubell in charge; Schechter, Surdi, Turk officiating.

Saturday, Nov. 21, Noon
EPEE Novice Individual. Robert S. Driscoll medals. Entry fee 85¢. Fencers Club. Mijer in charge; Kapner, Latzko, Ohlson officiating.

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7 P.M.
WOMEN'S Prep Individual. Evelyn Van Buskirk medals. Entry fee 85¢. Rohdes Academy. Accl in charge; Dalton, Funke, Pongo officiating.

Saturday, Nov. 28, Noon
SABRE Novice Individual. Norman C. Armitage medals. Entry fee 85¢. Saltus-McBurney. Prokop in charge; Bavuso, A. Cohen, Loran officiating.

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 P.M.
WOMEN'S Individual; limited to Seniors, Intermediates and Juniors. Alice Wendt Voorhees medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Salle Santelli. Sobel in charge; Axelrod, Goldstein, Nunes officiating.

Saturday, Dec. 5, Noon
ALL EASTERN FOIL Intermediate Team Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$4.80. U. of Pa. Gymnasium, Philadelphia. Makler in charge.

Sunday, Dec. 6, Noon
SABRE, Metropolitan Qualifying Round for Individual Intermediate Championship. Entry fee \$1.60. Fencers Club. Prokop in charge; Bavuso, Gorlin, Hess officiating.

Saturday, Dec. 12, Noon
ALL EASTERN Intermediate Team Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$4.80. Princeton U. Gymnasium. Orsi in charge.

Sunday, Dec. 13, Noon
WOMEN'S Junior Team Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$3.30. Rohdes Academy. Markowitz in charge; Lubell, Schechter, Strauch officiating.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7 P.M.
WOMEN'S Metropolitan Qualifying Round for Individual Intermediate Championship. Entry fee \$1.60. Fencers Club. Olvin in charge; E. Cohen, Lazar, Turk officiating.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 1 P.M.
ALL EASTERN EPEE Intermediate Team Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$7.80. County Center, White Plains, N.Y. Quinn in charge.

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 7 P.M.
FOIL Intercollegiate Individual. Limited to four men per College. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.10. New York A.C. Kwartler in charge; M. de Capriles, Dow, Every officiating.

1954

Sunday, January 3, Noon
FOIL, Metropolitan Qualifying Round for Individual Intermediate Championship. Entry fee \$1.60. New York A.C. Friedman in charge; Hochberg, Kwartler, Lazar, Lubell officiating.

Saturday, Jan. 3, Noon
WOMEN'S Open Individual. Anthony Greco Trophy (now held by Madeline Dalton), A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Saltus-McBurney. Olvin in charge; Axelrod, Pongo, Ritayik officiating.

Sunday, Jan. 10, Noon
EPEE, Metropolitan Qualifying Round for Individual Intermediate Championship. Entry fee \$2.60. Fencers Club. Mijer in charge; Latzko, Lutz, Moss officiating.

Saturday, Jan. 16, Noon
WOMEN'S Junior Individual Championship. Marion Lloyd Vince medals. Entry fee \$1.10. Saltus-McBurney. Accl in charge; A. Cohen, Bukantz, Marmer, Strauch officiating.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 P.M.
SABRE Individual; limited to Seniors and Intermediates; direct elimination finals; Nickolas Muray medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Salle Santelli. Rothman in charge M. de Capriles, Goldstein, Hess officiating.

Saturday, Jan. 23, Noon
FOIL Individual; limited to Seniors and Intermediates; direct elimination finals; A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Saltus-McBurney. Friedman in charge; J. de Capriles, Pongo, Worth officiating.

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7 P.M.
EPEE Individual; limited to Seniors and Intermediates; direct elimination finals; A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$2.60. Fencers Club. Lutz in charge; Driscoll, Latzko, Spingarn officiating.

Saturday, Jan. 30, Noon
WOMEN'S Open Team Championship and Qualifying Round for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$4.80. Fencers Club. Gorlin in charge; Bavuso, Bukantz, Ritayik officiating.

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 P.M.
FOIL Junior Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.10. New York A.C. Kwartler in charge; Axelrod, Hochberg, Lubell officiating.

Saturday, Feb. 6, 10:30 A.M.
FOIL Open Team Championship and Qualifying Round for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$4.80. Saltus-McBurney. Olvin in charge; Dow, Nunes, Worth officiating.

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7 P.M.
EPEE Junior Individual Championship. Miguel de Capriles medals. Entry fee \$2.10. Fencers Club. Mijer in charge; J. de Capriles, Driscoll, Sonnenreich, Vebell officiating.

Sunday, Feb. 14, Noon
EPEE Open Team Championship and Qualifying Round for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$7.80. Fencers Club Lutz in charge; Jaeckel, Latzko officiating.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7 P.M.
SABRE Junior Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.10. New York A.C. Rothman in charge; A. Cohen, Gorlin, Kapner, Marcell officiating.

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10:30 A.M.
SABRE Open Team Championship and Qualifying Round for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$4.80. Saltus-McBurney. Prokop in charge; M. de Capriles, Hess officiating.

Monday, Feb. 22, Noon
EPEE Open Team. Unlimited entries, special rules. Washington Square Cup (now held by Fencers Club). Entry fee \$7.80. Fencers Club. Sobel in charge; Driscoll, Latzko, Lutz, Ohlson officiating.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 7 P.M.
WOMEN'S Prep Individual. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee 85¢. Rohdes Academy. Accl in charge; E. Cohen, Funke, Schechter officiating.

Sunday, Feb. 28, Noon
ALL EASTERN 3-WEAPON Open Team. Limited to one team per club; special rules. Gen. Francis W. Honeycutt Trophy (now held by Salle Santelli). Entry fee \$5.80. New York A.C. Worth in charge.

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SALTUS-McBURNERY Club, Y.M.C.A., 215 W. 23 St. (Rubber strips)

A.F.L.A. Metropolitan and All Eastern Schedule

Tuesday, Mar. 2, 7 P.M.

SABRE Junior Team Championship. James Montague Trophy (now held by Columbia) and A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$3.30. Fencers Club. Lubell in charge; Gorlin, Pongo, Kwartler officiating.

Saturday, Mar. 6, Noon

EPEE Qualifying Round for National Individual Championship. Entry fee \$2.60. Fencers Club. Mijer in charge; J. de Capriles, Lorant, Ohlson officiating.

Sunday, Mar. 7, Noon

ALL EASTERN 3-WEAPON Open Individual Championship. Direct elimination. President's medals. Entry fee \$2.10. New York A.C. Sobel in charge; Dow, Worth officiating.

Friday, Mar. 12 & Saturday, Mar. 13

INTERCOLLEGIATE (I.C.F.A.) CHAMPIONSHIPS, N.Y.U.

Tuesday, Mar. 16, 7 P.M.

FOIL Prep Individual. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee 85¢. Rhodes Academy. Friedman in charge; Marmer, Surdi, Turk officiating.

Saturday, Mar. 20, Noon

ALL EASTERN FOIL Intermediate Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Place to be announced, N.J. Orsi in charge.

Sunday, March 21, Noon

ALL EASTERN WOMEN'S Intermediate Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Place to be announced, Conn. Shaller in charge.

Friday, Mar. 26 & Saturday, Mar. 27

INTERCOLLEGIATE (NCAA) CHAMPIONSHIPS, Univ. of Chicago.

Saturday, Mar. 27, Noon

WOMEN'S Qualifying Round for Individual National Championship. Entry fee \$1.60. Fencers Club. Olvin in charge; Axelrod, Lazar, Turk officiating.

Sunday, Mar. 28, Noon

EPEE-SABRE Team. Limited to two teams per club; special rules. Arthur S. Lyon Trophy (now held by Fencers Club) and A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$4.20. New York A.C. Sobel in charge; Bukantz, Worth officiating.

Tuesday, Mar. 30, 7 P.M.

FOIL Junior Team Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$3.30. New York A.C. Kwartler in charge; Goldstein, Hochberg, Spingarn officiating.

Saturday, Apr. 3, Noon

FOIL Qualifying Round for Individual National Championship. Entry fee \$1.60. Saltus-McBurney. Olvin in charge; Bukantz, Kwartler. Lubell officiating.

Sunday, Apr. 4, Noon

ALL EASTERN EPEE Individual Intermediate Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$2.60. Place to be announced, Conn. Shaller in charge.

Tuesday, Apr. 6, 7 P.M.

EPEE Junior Team Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$6.30. Fencers Club. Mijer in charge; Driscoll, Jaekel, Vebell officiating.

Saturday, Apr. 10

WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATES. Elmira, N.Y.

Saturday, Apr. 17, Noon

SABRE Qualifying Round for Individual National Championship. Entry fee \$1.60. Fencers Club. Rothman in charge; Bukantz, Nunes, Prokop officiating.

Saturday, Apr. 24, Noon

ALL EASTERN SABRE Intermediate Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. U. of Pa. Gymnasium, Philadelphia. Makler in charge.

Sunday, Apr. 25, Noon

FOIL Metropolitan Open Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. New York A.C. Friedman in charge; Every, Nyilas, Pongo, Worth officiating.

Saturday, May 1, 10:30 A.M.

SABRE Metropolitan Open Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. New York A.C. Prokop in charge; M. de Capriles, Hess officiating.

Sunday, May 2, Noon

WOMEN'S Metropolitan Open Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$1.60. Fencers Club. Bukantz in charge; Muray, Strauch officiating.

Saturday, May 8, Noon

EPEE Metropolitan Open Individual Championship. A.F.L.A. medals. Entry fee \$2.60. Fencers Club. Lutz in charge; Jaekel, Latzko, Ohlson officiating.

Sunday, May 16, 1 P.M.

EPEE "Masters" Individual. Limited to Olympians, winners of two or more medals in National Epee Championships, and to professionals who are Associate Members of the A.F.L.A. Special rules. Saltus Trophy (now held by Tracy Jaekel) and Miguel de Capriles medals. Entry fee \$2.60. Fencers Club. M. de Capriles in charge.

National Championships, June 11-18, 1954

RULES FOR METROPOLITAN AND ALL-EASTERN COMPETITIONS

All Epee Competitions are with the Electrical Weapon

Entries must be sent in writing, accompanied by entry fee to the Recording Secretary, **Miss Nancy Ferrara, 70 East 45th St., New York 17**, at least two weeks prior to the date of the competition. No blanket entries for several events are acceptable. Individual entries must be made by the individual himself or by his club captain, provided the latter is designated as such to the Recording Secretary at the start of the fencing season.

Competitors must report to the Bout Committee at least 15 minutes prior to starting time, and must be ready to fence when called. **Upon entering a competition each fencer obligates himself to remain to the end of the contest, to assist in judging and directing,**

unless excused by the Bout Committee.

Teams may consist of four members. Teams having only two members present at scheduled starting time will be compelled to fence the first match with only those two members. A third member may join the team after the completion of the first match.

Armament and Equipment must conform strictly to the rules. For epee each fencer must have at least two electrical weapons and two body cords approved by the Bout Committee. Fencers appearing in soiled or torn or unsafe uniforms will be barred.

Officials assigned to a specific event are required to arrange for their own substitutes if not able to attend.

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Acknowledgments

The A.F.L.A. wishes to thank the various clubs and schools for their courtesy in permitting the use of their facilities for its competitions.

The League also wishes to express its appreciation for the generosity of Mrs. Harold Van Buskirk, Mrs. Marion Lloyd Vince, Mrs. Alice Wendt Voorhees, Dr. Norman C. Armistage, Mr. J. M. Castello, Mr. Jose de Capriles, Mr. Miguel de Capriles, Mr. Robert S. Driscoll, Mr. Dernell Every, Mr. Anthony Greco, Dr. John R. Huffman, Mr. Pieter Mijer, Mr. Nickolas Muray, Mr. Leo Nunes, Mr. George Santelli, Mr. Henrique Santos, and other donors of trophies, medals and prizes.

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The Fleche

By **JULIUS ALPAR**
Professor of Fencing

One of the most important and necessary foot movements in modern sabre fencing is the fleche attack. Modern sabre fencing, with its emphasis on ever-faster speed, subtle timing, and carefully kept distance, has required the adoption and development of the fleche. The simple step-lunge is often not enough to reach the elastic opponent; while the compound jump-step-lunge or double-step-lunge are far too slow in comparison with the perfectly executed modern fleche.

Before describing the execution of the different types of fleche, we have to distinguish between the modern and the classical forms of this kind of attack. The classical fleche attack was a movement similar to running, particularly in this respect: that, upon the crossing of the back leg in front of the forward leg, it was the crossing foot which gave the final impulse to reach the opponent. The crossing movement took a fairly long time, and if the opponent had the ability to appreciate the situation and react quickly, he would notice the beginning of the fleche and could defend himself by drawing away his body or by jumping back. With the exception of the Hungarians, all fencers until recently used the classical fleche attack. In France, and now in the United States, the modern masters are teaching the more up-to-date fleche. In my former article in *American Fencing* (February 1953) I mentioned the great success of the top Hungarian sabremen at the Olympics, and in this success the extremely developed modern fleche played a prominent part. It is my purpose in this article to explain the modern fleche, because most of the available books on fencing make at most only a brief mention of this movement, and offer no practical help in understanding it.

The modern fleche is based upon the pioneer work of **Borsody** and **Santelli**, as developed through careful analysis of movement, through anatomical, motion-mechanical and motion-dynamic studies, and through comparison with complementary sports by other fencing masters, many of whom were champions in other sports as well as in fencing. Despite the great differences in our ages, I myself had the most cordial relationship with the late Maestro **Santelli** of Budapest; and since I was a pupil of **Borsody**, I had the opportunity on many occasions to discuss the different movements with both of these famous teachers. After the death of **Borsody** I took his place in the great Hungarian clubs, H.T.V.K. and M.A.C., and when we were preparing the Hungarian squad for the World Championships, Old Maestro **Santelli** walked over to me to watch what I was doing, and the greatest tribute from him was when he remarked: "I agree with what you are teaching; you are a good master." Drawing upon my experience as ski and track-and-field champion, I meditated upon and investigated the start of

the sprint, since this movement seemed to me to be the closest to the fleche, and therefore the most likely to assist in the solution of the problem.

If the modern fleche starts from the stationary position, it is motion-technically almost identical with the start of the sprint; but if it starts while the fencer is in motion, the movement is similar to the successively accelerating flying-start. However, an important difference must be noted: When a right-handed person takes a sprint-starting position, his left leg is in front; but when a right-handed fencer is in the "on guard" position, his right leg will be in front. Therefore he has to learn the opposite start to that which he would use for the sprint. For this reason it is necessary to strengthen and educate the right leg. To approach the motion-technique of the fleche taken from the stationary position, I had to make the fencer practise, first without the sabre, and later with the weapon in his hand, the opposite start. First we touched the floor, and later we took successively higher positions until the correct height of the "on guard" position was reached. (Fig. 1). When I first started to teach in this manner, everybody was bewildered; but soon they agreed with the explanation and the fencers, cooperating fully, began to correct their motion so that **Kovacs** and the others have perfected the execution of the fleche to the point where it seems to be almost slow—a short movement, needing the minimum of strength. In this article, I deal with the foot-work only; the hand-work is not mentioned. I refer throughout to the right-handed fencer.

At the start of the fleche from a stationary position, the body must be at a certain angle relative to the feet, so that the line of thrust is as close as possible to the line adopted by the body. Otherwise the fleche will become a jump directed upwards, and thus will be slower and shorter. To avoid this fault, the fencer has to bring his body into the correct angle before he leaves the floor with his feet. In order not to betray the actual moment of the start of the fleche, the fencer should shift the weight of his body back and forth several times. (Fig. 2). The powerful "take-off" springs from the muscles of the sole of the **right foot** (contrary to the left-footed classical fleche), followed instantly by the explosive snap of the right knee. (Fig. 3). In thrusting the body forward, the left leg plays its part also, but the rapid "take-off" depends upon the right leg. The body is in an extended position, following as closely as possible the line between the starting point and the hitting point. The left leg, upon crossing in front of the right, arrests the body's natural tendency to fall, and restores the balance so that the fleche ends in a successively slowing-down run. Thus the order of movement is as follows: First, the weight shifts on to the right foot, as the left leg is straightened, so that the center of gravity is slightly lowered; second, the



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

THE FLECHE

FIG. 3

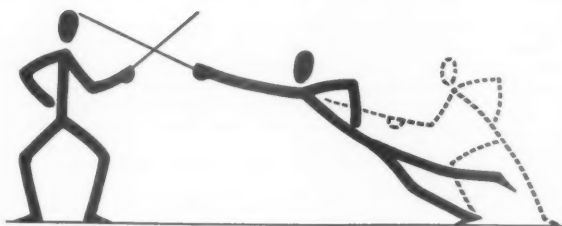


FIG. 4



FIG. 5

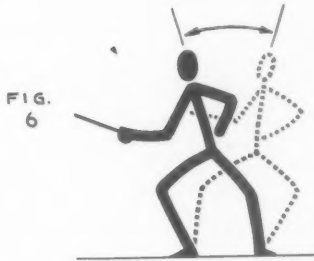


FIG. 6

powerful flexing of the right knee throws the body into an oblique angle, so that every part of the body and the weapon is striving toward the opponent; and third, as the left leg crosses in front of the right, the fencer regains his balance and passes by the opponent.

The fleche from a flying start can be executed in various ways, as for example: (a) the rolling fleche; (b) the step or jump fleche; (c) the stamp and fleche; (d) the slide and fleche; (e) the retreat and fleche.

A. Rolling Fleche. In this basic movement, the fencer starts the step, advancing his right leg, but does not complete the bringing of the left foot forward. He straightens the left leg, then puts the right foot powerfully down, and with a rolling movement on the sole of the right foot, thrusts his body towards the opponent. The right knee, acting like a spring, shoots out the body. (Fig. 4).

B. Step or Jump Fleche. Here the fencer makes a step or jump before starting the above-described rolling fleche.

C. Stamp and Fleche. At the beginning, the weight of the body is on the left leg, while the fencer stamps vigorously several times with the right foot. Then, with a sudden motion, he shifts his weight to the right foot and completes the fleche as above. In this fleche, the use of the left leg is more important than in the other types of fleche. (Fig. 5).

D. Slide and Fleche. Here I need only to explain what is meant by the slide. In this movement, we start the step with the right foot, just as before; but with a quick motion we throw the body forward, so that both feet slide on the floor a distance of one or two feet, and then continue the fleche as before.

E. Retreat and Fleche. To surprise and mislead the opponent, we make a short

step back without moving the upper body, almost grasping the floor with the feet, and the right knee bent rather more than the left. We reach the necessary angle and complete the fleche. (Fig. 6).

During my stay in Paris in the years 1948 and 1949, I was teaching at the Racing Club de France and the Salle Bourdon. The French fencing masters spent much time with me investigating my teaching, asking questions and exploring the secret of the Hungarian fleche. Today, Lefevre and Levavasseur are very close to the top Hungarian fencers in their execution of the fleche.

Ed. Note: Prof. Alapar is at present in Canada, but hopes soon to make a trip to the United States.

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Barthel Wins Metropolitan Outdoor Epee

Henry C. Barthel, N.Y.A.C., won the first competition of the 1953-54 Metropolitan season when he outscored a small but strong field in the Outdoor Epee Competition held at Travers Island on September 20. Dick Dyer, Philadelphia F.C., was a close second, and Herman Wallner of N.Y.U., last year's winner, finished third when a quintuple tie for that place was resolved on a count of touches. Mr. Henrique S. Santos, sponsor of the event, presented the winners with suitably inscribed Portuguese sterling silver ashtrays.

Results

(1) Barthel, NYAC, 8-3; (2) Dyer, Phila. F.C., 7-4; (3) Wallner, NYU, 6-5, 18 tr.; (4) J. de Capriles, FC, 6-5, 22 tr.; (5) T. M. Carhart, Wash. F.C., 6-5, 23 tr.; (6) J. Corbett, FC, 6-5, 24 tr.; (7) M. Mamlouk, SS, 6-5, 25 tr.; (8) E. Vebell, FC, 5-6, 21 tr.; (9) A. Menendez, Cuba, 5-6, 23 tr.; (10) H. A. Shafft, NYU, 4-7; (11) E. Dollinger, FC, 3-8, 26 tr.; (12) J. H. Flynn, NYAC, 38, 28 tr.

Dr. Paul Makler Wins Met. Outdoor Sabre

Dr. Paul T. Makler, fresh from his North American triumphs, won the Metropolitan Outdoor Sabre Competition for the Pieter Mijer medals at Travers Island on September 27. His clubmate from Philadelphia, Dick Dyer, was second on touches over Abram Cohen of the Fencers Club.

Results

(1) Makler, Phila. FC, 6-1; (2) Dyer, Phila. FC, 5-2, 22 tr.; (3) Cohen, FC, 5-2, 23 tr.; (4) J. Flynn, NYAC, 4-3; (5) S. Sobel, unatt., 3-4; (6) A. Menendez, Cuba, 2-5, 29 tr.; (7) R. Flynn, NYAC, 2-5, 30 tr.; (8) H. Kaneff, SS, 1-6.

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Some Observations on American College Fencing

By LAJOS CSISZAR

As Coach of the University of Pennsylvania Fencing Team for the past five years, I have had the opportunity to be in close contact with American collegiate fencing. Perhaps some observations and comparisons with its European counterpart might prove of interest.

With the exceptions of some private and large urban public schools, there is no secondary school program of fencing in the United States. Fencing simply has not won for itself a place in the athletic program of most high schools. Consequently, colleges are faced with a chronic shortage of experienced candidates for the sport.

Quite the contrary is true in Europe generally. There is an extensive secondary school program which parallels our own A.F.L.A. in organization. Although it is common to teach only the foil until the pupil reaches 16 years of age, there are high school championships held in both foil and sabre.

Because of the lack of a background of training as well as the shortness of available time, our collegiate fencing puts a premium on gaining bout experience rather than acquiring sound technique. The upshot of this emphasis is the development of the "college style"—a form that will enable the fencer to win in competitive collegiate meets, but which will not take the student far in A.F.L.A. competition.

In Europe, and in Hungary particularly, a college fencer doesn't need much experience to be "good"; what is necessary is sound technique. Every young fencer who shows any ability or interest in the sport can be taught by at least one "maestro." The many clubs are always willing to help or even "carry" a talented young fencer who financially might not be able to continue his fencing career. So it is that the European fencer in his early 20's is a skilled fencer, while only after graduation from college does the American fencer really learn his technique.

But the college is in itself much more important in our fencing than it is in the European picture. Whereas in Europe it is neither necessary nor even usual for the top fencers to have attended college, it is in the United States an almost invariable rule. For here, the backbone of our amateur fencers is composed of those serious fencers who continue on after student days are over. It is of the utmost importance, then, that we do everything in our power to encourage collegiate fencers to keep on after their graduation from the university. One of the factors which helps to "kill" a young fencer's interest in the sport is poor and frustrating directing and judging. It is to this area that I would like to devote the remainder of this paper.

In perhaps no other sport does officiating play so crucial and all-pervading a role as it does in fencing, nor does it allow for so many chances of error. On countless occasions, for example, the

same series of actions are interpreted differently, usually because of a different emphasis or understanding of the timing by different officials. The result is the creation of heated disputes and bad feelings. I believe that we can improve our officiating in at least three ways, and thereby leave a more favorable impression with the college fencer—one which may induce him to continue with fencing.

Viewing the young fencer from the standpoints of temperament, speed, or training, the "attack" is his basic orientation. His lessons begin with the fundamentals of the attack, and he moves from instinctive attacking motions to more conscious efforts. Gradually he feels and sees the necessity for and advantages of the parry and riposte. When he is considerably advanced he learns the intelligent and correct use of the "stop-thrust" and counter-time. But the attack is the springboard to greater knowledge and constitutes the basis of his "game." In view of this, then, why shouldn't direction in college fencing be oriented towards favoring the attack? Too often a fencer is discouraged by the award of the touch to a wild counter action or stop which was more the result of a blind swing rather than purposive plan. Just as there is a certain direction in

the development of the young fencer's knowledge, so too there should be that same direction in collegiate officiating.

Secondly, it seems to me that much can be done in this matter of officiating by teaching the young fencers the rules of fencing and tutoring them in judging and directing. Fencers should be taught from the beginning to analyze actions and "to think" while fencing or watching. The coach should encourage sessions at which the fencers read and discuss, learn and digest the rule book. I make it a practice at Penn to have bouts in the fencing room in which under my supervision the fencers act as judge and director and conduct competitions. Then, too, every exertion should be made to have the fencers watch top-flight competitions and exhibitions, and if possible, to attend some of the judging clinics.

This device of the judging clinics is my third approach to the problem. We are very fortunate in having a fairly large number of fencers who have participated in international competitions—especially the Olympics—and who have learned and observed at first hand the techniques of the best European judging and directing, and who are themselves outstanding officials. I wonder if some effort could not be made in each division that either has an Olympic team member or can arrange to have one visit, to sponsor judging clinics and hear the experienced fencer's observations on officiating. Also, at the big tournaments held during the year, I feel that it would be advantageous to hold such sessions along with the competition. The National Championships in June offer a wonderful opportunity to try out such a procedure. Additionally, a series of articles by our Olympic team members on officiating might be a very helpful supplement to "American Fencing" which has carried already some question-and-answer columns on judging.

Because of the great difference in the organization of American fencing life as contrasted with the European, it seems important that we do all in our power to attract, encourage and hold the college fencer to the sport. One great step in this direction would be the reforming and wide teaching of our fencing rules, and the training of good officials.

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News from the Divisions

Northern California

Halberstadt Sabre

by Leni Sobel Allbaugh

Salvatore Giambra of the Olympic Club won the seventh annual trophy presented by Mr. Hans Halberstadt. This is the third time that Giambra won the engraved sabre in the special event which consists of 12-touch bouts with two-touch margin. Steve Sobel of Columbia University placed second and lost only to Giambra by 12-9. Daniel De La O, Olympic Club, was third. Fifteen competed in this popular event, with all six of the finalists receiving a prize.

Results

Prelim. Pool I—De La O 6/0; Sobel 5/0; Jack Baker 5/1; Jack Adams 4/3; Ed Treckteris 1/4; George Hirsch 1/4; Arnold Kirchner 0/5; Ned Beatty 0/5.

Prelim. Pool II—Giambra 5/0; Gordon Scheile 4/2; Al Lambert 4/2; Gerard Biagini 4/2; Edward Flitcraft 2/4; N. Schultz 0/5; Jack Anderson 0/5.

Final Round—Giambra 5/0; Sobel 4/1; De La O 3/2; Scheile 2/3; Lambert 1/4; Baker 0/5.

Southern California Schedule 1953

Competitions are open to all members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing. Entries must be forwarded in writing, with entry fees, at least one week in advance to the Chairman of the Bout Committee, **Peggy Lundeberg, 7817 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 45**. Competitions held at Pasadena Y.M.C.A. (Pas. Y.); Hollywood Y.M.C.A. (Hol. Y.); Knights Fencing Club (KFC); Los Angeles A.C. (LAAC); Valley Junior College (V.J.C.), and Long Beach Y.M.C.A. (L.B. Y.).

Sept. 11, Prep Foil Men and Prep Foil Women, Pas.Y., 50c; 18, Nov. Foil Men, Hol.Y., 50c; 25, Jr. Foil Men, Pas.Y., 50c.

Oct. 9, Nov. Foil Women, Pas.Y., 50c; 9, Jr. Foil Team, Men, Pas.Y., \$1.50; 16, Nov. Epee (ink), KFC, 50c; 23, Jr. Foil, Women, LAAC, 50c; 23, Jr. Epee (el.), LAAC, \$1.00.

Nov. 6, Jr. Epee Team (el.), LAAC, \$3.00; Jr. Foil Team, Women, V.J.C., \$1.50; 13, Nov. Sabre, V.J.C., 50c; 20, Jr. Sabre, KFC, 50c.

Dec. 4, Sr. Foil, Women, Pas.Y., 50c; 4, Jr. Sabre Team, Pas.Y., \$1.50; 11, Sr. Foil, Men, KFC, 50c; 18, Bowen Handicap Foils, Men, VJC, 50c.

Maryland

by Calvert Schlick, Chairman

The year 1953 has witnessed tremendous growth in the number of competitions, number of entries and number of members. Baltimore's two coaches, Mr. Gleim and Mr. Pope have contributed immeasurably to the improvement of our fencing. Mr. Gleim's groups, the International Y and the Challenge Fencers, have encouraged the younger fencers. Mr. Pope's achievements with the teams at Johns Hopkins, Y.M.C.A. and Tri-Weapon, speak for themselves. Mr. Fiems and Mr. Deladrier, coaches at the Naval Academy, have aided us by encouraging a greater number of midshipmen to participate in our A.F.L.A. competitions. The introduction of electrical epee to our area through the combined efforts of the Baltimore Fencers' Club and the Maryland Division has overjoyed our epeemen. Plans are now being formulated to insure a steady flow of high school fencers into our ranks by helping to increase the high school fencing program in Maryland.

Results of Recent Competitions

Women's Open

1. Abbie Rose—Tri-Weapon
2. Gisela Trurnit—Tri-Weapon
3. Carol Hespeneide—York Y.

Open Epee

1. Horace Leavitt—U.S.N.A.
2. Al Hurwitz—Y.M.C.A.
3. Cal Schlick—Y.M.C.A.

Open Sabre

1. Richard Paulson—U.S.N.A.
2. Bernard Udel—J.C.C.
3. Robert Lewis—J.C.C.

Epee Team

1. Hurwitz, Rose, Schlick, Y.M.C.A.
2. Lewis, Udel, Enten, J.C.C.

Women's Closed

1. Abbie Rose—Tri-Weapon
2. Doris Bernard—Int. Y.
3. Barbara Hanks—Int. Y.

Closed Epee

1. Mel Hiller—U.S.N.A.
2. Al Hurwitz—Y.M.C.A.
3. Horace Leavitt—U.S.N.A.

Southwestern Section

Results

by Helen Gray, North Texas Div.

Women's Team: (1) Salle Prin Comp.; (2) Texas Tech.

Men's Foil Team: (1) Salle Prin Comp.; (2) Texas A & M.

Epee Team: (1) Salle Prin Comp.; (2) Texas A & M.

Sabre Team: (1) Texas Tech; (2) Salle Prin Comp.

Individuals

Women's Open: (1) Betty Fox, Prin; (2) N. Abbott, Prin; (3) M. Prudy, Texas St. Coll. for Women.

Men's Open: (1) Jack Baird, Prin; (2) W. Brown, Prin; (3) Lt. Mruce Davis, Ft. Bliss.

Open Epee: (1) W. Bingham, U. Ariz.; (2) A. Mercado, U. Houston; (3) W. Wilman, Texas A & M.

Open Sabre: (1) Jack Baird, Prin; (2) R. van Praag, Ft. Bliss; (3) Roddy Hobson, Texas Tech.

Intermediate Foil, Men: (1) Lt. Bruce Davis, Ft. Bliss; (2) R. Braslau, Texas A & M; (3) J. Carnell, Texas Tech.

Intermediate Epee: (1) A. Mercado, U. Houston; (2) W. Willman, Texas A & M; (3) R. van Praag, Ft. Bliss.

Intermediate Sabre: (1) Lt. Bruce Davis, Ft. Bliss; (2) B. Burch, U. Ariz.; (3) Ted Fields, Texas A & M.

Junior Events: Foil: (1) Capt. W. J. Lescarbeau, Ft. Bliss; (2) B. Burch, U. Ariz; (3) J. Pafford, Texas A & M. Epee: (1) J. Ramsey, Texas A & M; (2) J. Pigg, Texas A & M; (3) C. Bradshaw, Texas Tech. Sabre: A. Goodstein, Dallas; (2) B. Burch, U. Ariz; (3) W. Bridgewater, Dallas.

Novice Events: Foil: (1) Davis; (2) Mercado; (3) Bingham. Epee: (1) Mercado; (2) Burch; (3) Davis. Sabre: (1) A. Garner, Texas A & M; (2) Burch; (3) Ed Sims, Texas Tech.



Closed Sabre

1. Robert Lewis—J.C.C.
2. Bernard Udel—J.C.C.
3. Lee Stanley—Int. Y.

Closed Foil

1. Robert Lewis—J.C.C.
2. Horace Leavitt—U.S.N.A.
3. Harry Enten—J.C.C.

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